

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05281 150937Z

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SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS TAKES STOCK AS FIRST ANNIVERSARY
IN OFFICE APPROACHES

REF: ATHENS 5273

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SPEAKING BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTIES REVIEWED THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SITUATION AND BRIEFLY THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVT. HE THEN SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT UNJUSTIFIED STRIKES AND ANARCHIST MANIFESTATIONS WHICH COULD ENDANGER THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL LIFE OF GREECE. ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, CARAMANLIS REMARKED THAT "TURKEY SEEMED EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PROCEED WITH A DIALOGUE FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING DIFFERENCES."

2. THE PRESS ALSO QUOTED "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS" (PRESUMABLY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS) AS COMMENTING THAT THERE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05281 150937Z

IS CONCERN OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH

RELATIONS, TURKISH INTENTIONS IN CYPRUS, AND THE POSSIBILITY THE TURKISH OCCUPATION FORCE MIGHT TRY TO CELEBRATE LAST YEARS VICTORY THRU NEW PROVOCATIONS." END SUMMARY.

3. ENUMERATING BRIEFLY THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RECALLED ON JULY 12 BEFORE THE ND DEPUTIES THAT AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE DICTATORSHIP THE COUNTRY COULD HAVE BEEN PLUNGED INTO ANARCHY AND CIVIL STRIFE. THE PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONDUCTED THREE IRREPROACHABLE ELECTIONS, AND PREPARED A PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION WHICH MET THE CONDITIONS OF GREECE. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF DEJUNTIZATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, CARAMANLIS NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON A LARGE SCALE AND THAT PENAL SANCTIONS WOULD BE METED OUT THRU THE JUDICIAL PROCESS. HE REMINDED THE NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTIES THAT ALL (SIC) THE INSTIGATORS OF THE APRIL 21 COUP WERE IN JAIL AND AT THE DISPOSAL OF JUSTICE.

4. IN A SUMMARY REVIEW OF FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS, CARAMANLIS DEFINED THE AIMS OF GREEK FOREIGN POLICY AS THE ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL PRESTIGE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY. REFERRING TO GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, CARAMANLIS SAID THAT IN SPITE OF GREECE'S EFFORTS, TURKEY SEEMED EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PROCEED WITH A DIALOGUE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING DIFFERENCES. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY CARAMANLIS ADDED, THAT GREECE REMAIN VIGILANT. THE NATIONS ARMED FORCES HAD NOW REGAINED A SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND DISCIPLINE, AND NOT ONLY HAD HIGH MORALE BUT WERE ALSO FULLY EQUIPPED.

5. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THE PM POINTED OUT THE UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE LEGACY OF THE DICTATORSHIP AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RECESSION. CARAMANLIS REFERRED TO "NEW DIFFICULTIES THAT HAD ARISEN RECENTLY THROUGH THE DEMANDS OF VARIOUS GROUPS" WHICH COULD LEAD TO ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. HE SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 05281 150937Z

STRIKES THAT WERE WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED AND TENDED TO BECOME MERELY A FAD PRESENT DEMANDS WHICH CANNOT BE SATISFIED IF THEY JEOPARDIZE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. HE ADDED THAT IT IS TIME TO PUT AN END TO SUCH SOCIAL UPHEAVAL WHICH THREATENS THE NORMAL DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL LIFE. "IT IS TIME THAT THOSE WHO PLAY A ROLE IN PUBLIC LIFE -- NAMELY THE POLITICAL PARTIES, PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES, LEADERS

AND THE PRESS -- COME TO REALIZE THE DANGERS THAT COULD ARISE FROM SUCH UPHEAVALS." HE CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT MAJORITIES EVERYWHERE SHOULD REACT TO PREVENT THE STATE FROM HAVING TO INTERVENE AND TO ISOLATE SUCH MINORITIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL AND THEIR OWN PUBLIC INTERESTS.

6. ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, A GOG SOURCE, PRESUMABLY FOREIGN MIN BITSIOS IN HIS REGULAR SATURDAY MORNING BRIEFING WITH POLITICAL EDITORS, COMMENTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS REMARK CONCERNING THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE AND THE STATUS OF GREEK ARMED FORCES WAS DELIBERATE AND SERVED AS A WARNING "IN EVERY DIRECTION." HE INDICATED THE GREEK SIDE WAS WATCHING THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS WILL HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS SINCE GREECE WILL NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT. THE IMPRESSION IN ATHENS, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, IS THAT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN TURKEY IS AN OBSTACLE TO HOLDING A GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE. MOREOVER, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE POLITICIANS AND THE TURKISH MILITARY ON THIS ISSUE.

7. THE SAME SOURCE ADDED THAT ATHENS IS CONCERNED OVER ANKARA'S INTENTIONS IN CYPRUS AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TURKISH OCCUPATION TROOPS COULD "CELEBRATE" THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION TO PROCEED TO NEW PROVOCATIONS. ON BILATERAL MATTERS THE SOURCE CONCLUDED THAT THE AIR SPACE QUESTION WILL BE EXAMINED FURTHER AT A MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD IN ATHENS BEGINNING ON JULY 21. REGARDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE THE GREEK SIDE IS AWAITING A REPLY ON THE MATTER OF SIGNING THE RELATIVE JOINT UNDERTAKING TO BE SUBMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 05281 150937Z

TO THE ICJ.

8. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTERS UNDERLINING OF THE THREAT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY OF STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IS WELCOME MUSIC TO MANY WHO ANTICIPATE THAT THIS SUMMER'S JUNTA TRIALS, COMBINED WITH A POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY ON BILATERAL ISSUES AND/OR OVER CYPRUS, MAY RAISE THE LEVEL OF STREET ACTIVITY AND PUBLIC ANGST. WHETHER LABOR LEADERS WILL TAKE HEED IS ANOTHER QUESTION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PRESSURES STEMMING FROM LEGITIMATE DEMANDS FOR SALARY HIKEs, A DEGREE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE DESIRE OF SOME LEADERS TO ENHANCE THEIR REPUTATIONS BEFORE UNION ELECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

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